

COMPLIMENTS OF  
M<sup>rs</sup> MCLEOD STEWART

# **Fifty Years Reminiscences**

of the

**Ottawa Board of Trade**

(Reprint from the Ottawa Free Press, Feb. 21, 1908)



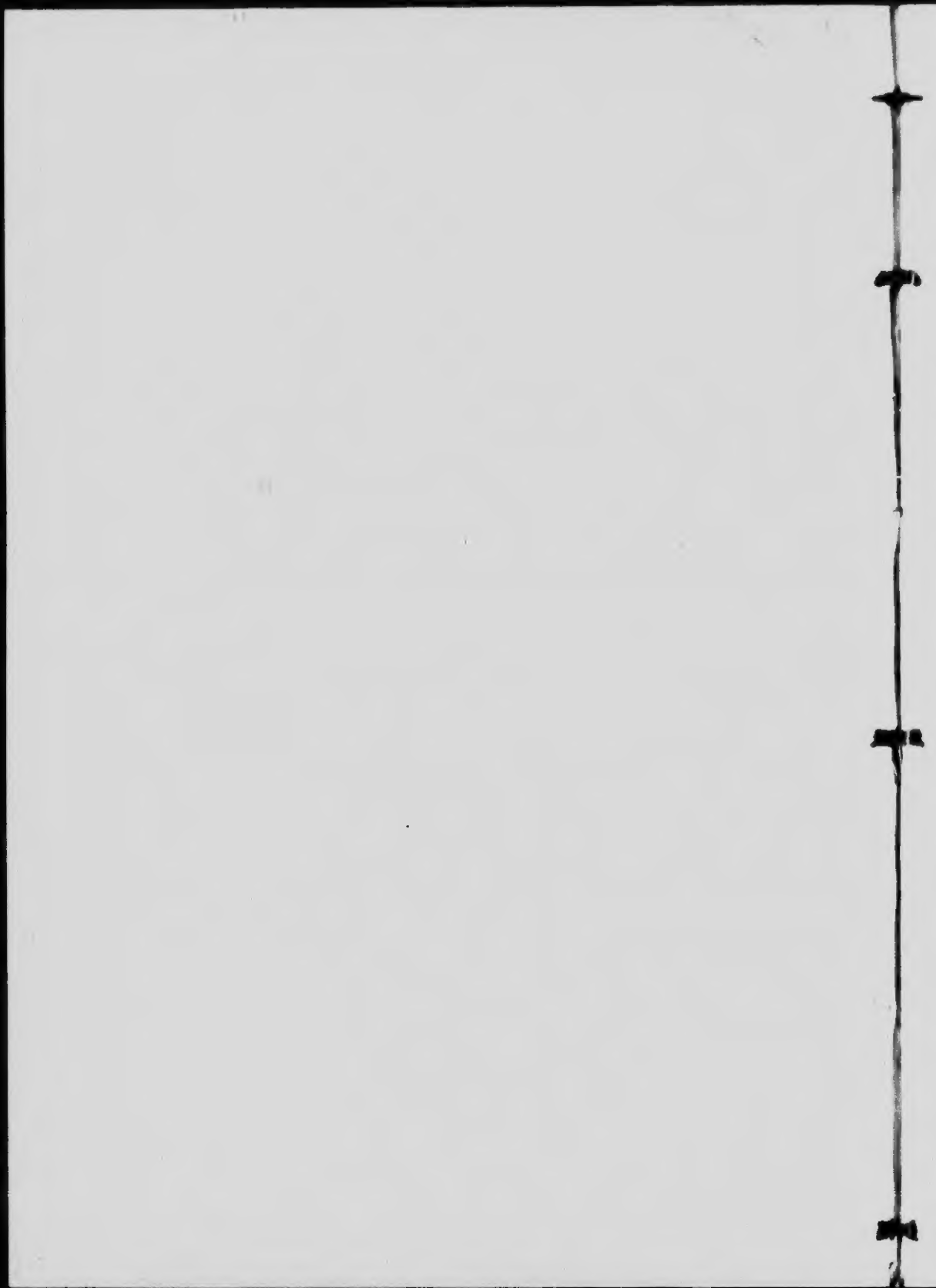
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**By Ex-Mayor McLeod Stewart**



**J. R. REID**  
Treasurer, Board of Trade, Ottawa.



# **Fifty Years' Reminiscences**

of the

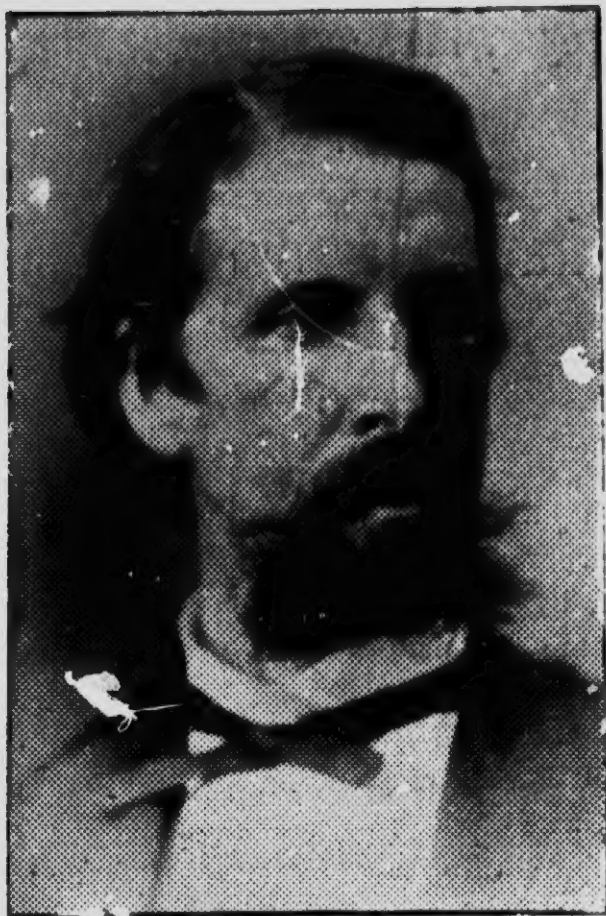
## **Ottawa Board of Trade**

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By Ex-Mayor McLeod Stewart

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The first Ottawa Board of Trade was incorporated on the tenth day of June, 1857, by Act of Parliament. The following are the names of the Incorporators: John Bower Lewis, Q.C., Edward Griffin, James H. Burke, James Porter, Edward McGillivray, Col. George May, William Harte Thompson, James Wadsworth, Philip Pearson Harris, (manager of the Bank of Montreal), John Durie, Agar Fielding, M.P.P., Alexander Workman, (afterwards Mayor of Ottawa) Col. Joseph Aumond, John W. Loux, (afterwards M.P.P. for Russell), Robert Harvey, (Mayor of Bytown), John Thompson,

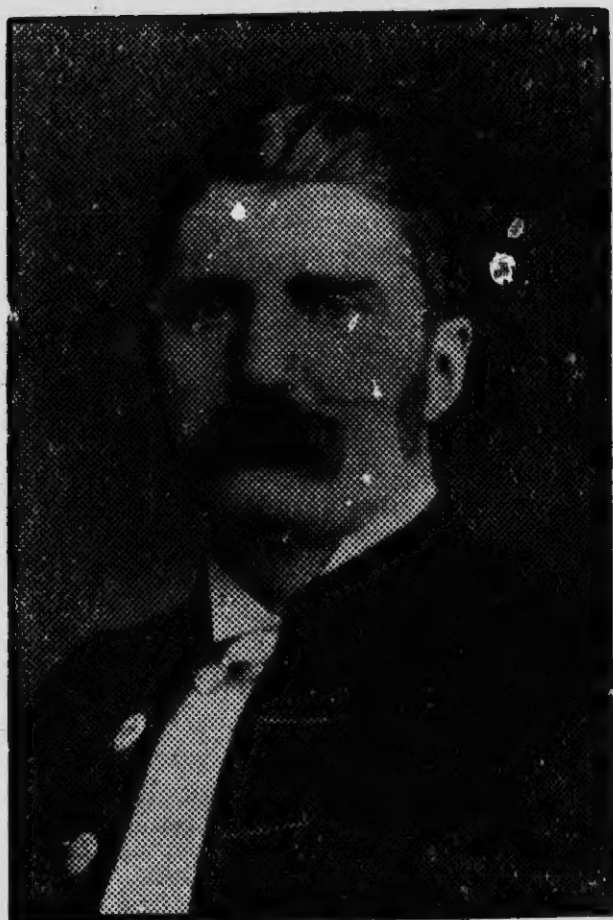


**MR. GEORGE HAY.**

(grocer), Alexander McKay, R. S. Cassels, (Manager of the Bank of Upper Canada), Col. Allan Gilmour, John Thompson, (farmer), John Forgie, Peter A. Egleson. Of the twenty-five incorporators only one survives, namely Col. George Hay, the respected President of the Bank of Ottawa. Col. Hay was one of the founders of the Protestant Hospital and was president of that institution for many years. His portrait in oils hangs on the walls of that most deserving charitable institution, which is widely known throughout the whole valley of the Ottawa. He was also for many years President of the Ottawa Auxiliary of the Bible Society. This society has done an immense amount of good in circulating copies of the Holy Scriptures in French, English and other languages, amongst the lumbermen and shanty-men throughout the great lumber districts of the Ottawa Valley on both the Quebec and Ontario sides. The Colonel is the oldest surviving Elder of Knox church, all the rest who were inducted at the same time as he was, have long since passed to "that bourne whence no traveller e'er returns."

There are many good and true men in the present Ottawa Board of Trade, but they are pigmies in comparison with the giants of '57.

In the sixties and early seventies the Board was vigorously run by such active



**MR. McLEOD STEWART.**

men as the late Hon. James Skead, chairman of the Dominion Board of Trade, J. M. Currier M. P., McKay Wright, M.P., Honore Robilliard, M.P., Alonzo Wright, M.P., the Hon. Joseph Tasse, and many others in auctioneers' parlance "too numerous to mention."

In 1874 hard times struck the country, but more especially in the Ottawa lumbering districts, and the majority of the lumbermen manufacturers and jobbers became mortgaged up to the eyes with the banks. Blue ruin stalked about the country for four or five years, and as Sir Richard Cartwright aptly said: "we were all flies on the wheel."

Then the Ottawa Board of Trade became, metaphorically speaking, a smouldering, but not an extinct volcano. In the early eighties, good times having returned and tall chimnies having been erected, the Ottawa Board of Trade commenced to revive once more, to renew its youth as it were. A Board-room was rented in the Ontario Chambers (now renamed the Trust Building), in the office now occupied by Mr. J. H. Sorley, manager of the Freight Department of the C.P.R. The Board Secretary appointed was the late Captain R. C. W. MacCuaig, (of His Majesty's Customs), who was a most capable, painstaking, energetic business man. The Board flourished for a few years and then, to carry out the simile, it again became a smouldering volcano.



In the early eighties the Board was revived with the late John M. Garland, as President, and Nicholas Garland of the Finance Department of Canada, as Secretary. The Board-room was started in the top flat of the Central Chambers in a big room known to the members then as "Seybold's Cockloft." Here the board flourished, or smouldered, with some excellent men as presidents, viz.:—John M. Garland, Wm. Scott, C. Ross, Joseph Kavanagh, George F. Henderson, John Coates, J. R. Reid, Denis Murphy, ex-M.P.P., and others.

Now we have a capable and energetic President in the person of Jas. W. Woods; an honest, painstaking man, and moreover, a truly loyal British subject for treasurer, in John R. Reid, and an admirable business-like and courteous young man for secretary, Mr. Cecil Bethune, the Board must, and should go forward to the goal of unlimited and unbounded prosperity.

The metropolitan Board of Trade should be the leader of all the other Boards of Trade. It should aim to rival Montreal or Toronto.

The Capital's Board has large problems to tackle in the near future. First and foremost of them all, from a local, national and Imperial standpoint is the Georgian Bay Canal; next the "All-Red Route,"; next "The All British Cable Route,"; then the water supply from

Meach's Lake; then the "Industries" question. In my opinion the first is the "daddy" of them all, and I have given the matter over thirty years of great thought and consideration, and over it shattered my health almost to the breaking point. "United we stand, divided we fall."

Let us unite at the commencement of the second jubilee to make Ottawa a beautiful, expanding, prosperous and more than all, an industrial city.

